

workplace SAFETY ALERT



From the Occupational Health Surveillance Program, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Brazilian worker fatally injured when crushed by five stone slabs

In October 2005, tragedy struck when a 38-year-old male Brazilian worker, employed by a local stone fabricator, was fatally injured. The victim and a coworker were retrieving a granite slab, the second of five slabs, stored in the first section of a vertical slab rack. In preparing to hoist the second slab out of the rack, the workers removed the rack's two end support pins and leaned the first slab towards the victim so he could support it with his back. Then the remaining four slabs in the rack's first section fell towards the workers, fatally crushing the victim and injuring the coworker. In 2005, two Brazilian men, employed in Massachusetts, died on the job.



Tips to keep yourself safe on the job:

- If you think some part of your job is not safe, talk to your co-workers. You can talk to your boss together.
- Ask your boss for safety training in your language for any machine you use, even if you have used that kind of machine before.
- If you can not understand warning and safety signs at your job, ask your boss to post signs in your language.
- If you are in a union, talk to a union representative.

You have a right to ask for health and safety information and protection. It is illegal for your employer to fire you if you do so!

You have health and safety rights on the job!

All workers have health and safety rights in the workplace: citizens and non-citizens, documented and undocumented workers. Employers have to follow occupational health and safety regulations.

Your employer has to:

- Provide you with a safe workplace that is free of serious recognized hazards.
- Train you how to work safely around dangerous chemicals (that you work with or work near).
- Make sure you have and use safe and properly maintained tools and equipment.
- Make sure all employees are covered under "Workers' Compensation" insurance (Workers' Compensation is a state system that provides medical benefits and money for workers who get hurt on the job).

For more information

Collaboration for a Better Workplace Environment for
Brazilians (COBWEB) Tel: (617) 783-8001 ext. 6
(for Portuguese speakers) Tel: (978) 934-3147

Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health
(MassCOSH) helps workers with health and safety problems
on the job Tel: 617-825-7233 ext. 10
www.masscosh.org

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
handles complaints of serious hazards Tel: 617-565-9860
www.osha.gov

Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents (DIA)
administers Workers' Compensation
www.mass.gov/dia Tel: 617-727-4900 x470

ALWAYS: If you need an interpreter, ask for one as soon as you make the call!